(b) whether there are schemes for launching fisheries, poultry farming, horticulture and sericulture development programmes on a time bound basis in these areas; and

(c) what is the state of (a) project identification (b) financing (c) implementation in these cases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH); (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been providing refinance facilities to Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, State Land Development Banks and State Cooperative Banks. Refinance is provided for all viable schemes and project relating to Minor Irrigation, Land Development Farm Mechanisation Plantation, Horticulture, Poultry, Sheep, Piggery, Fisheries, Dairy Development, Storage and Market Yards, Forestry, Gobar Gas Plants, Non-Farm Sector activities and Integrated Rural Development Programme. The financing of such activities by the credit institutions is a part of their normal lending on a continued basis.

The number of Schemes and the financial assistance given for the same by NABARD during the year 1989-90 in the States of Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh in respect of fisheries, poultry farming and plantation/horticulture is given as under;—■

Statement showing number of schemes financed and the amount disbursed by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development during the year 1989-90 *in the States of Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh under Fisheries, Poultry!Sheep/Piggery and Plantation!'horticulture*

Activities	No. of Sche;	rues financed		Amount disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)		
	Bihar	West Bengal	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar	West Pradesh	Uttar Bengal
(i) Fisheries .	6	24 13	53 59	4 6	122	80 53
(ii) Poultry/Sheep /Piggery	3	34	52	32	69	
(iii) Plantation/Horticulture (including sericulture)	3				721	180

Opening of Branches of Banks in Bihar

63. PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of licences is sued by the Reserve Bank during the last five years for opening branches of banks in Bihar;

(b) what has been the progress of opening of these branches bank-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether there is any shortfall in meeting the target; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Under the previous Branch Licensing Policy for 1985—90, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allotted 651 centres to banks for opening branches at rural, semi-urban, urban and metropolitan centres. The banks have opened branches at 450 centres. The banks could not open the branches at the remaining centre's mainly due to lack of infrastructural facilities at the allotted centres. RBI has now extended the validity period for pending licences upto 31-3-1991.